

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

With this bill, the Legislature has taken an initial modest step towards recognizing the potential devastating impacts of a levee failure on the citizens of California. I appreciate the Legislature's willingness to enter this policy area and am signing Assembly Bill 1200. This bill requires the Department of Water Resources and the Department of Fish and Game to study and analyze the impacts levee failures in the Delta could have on water supply. While this bill has noble and necessary objectives, my Administration has already initiated these evaluations and will proceed accordingly. But more must be done.

In my January budget, I proposed to increase levee maintenance by 70 percent and this was included in the final budget. In the beginning of this legislative session I sponsored two bills that would have created a mechanism for locals to match federal and state government funding of levee construction, maintenance, and environmental mitigation. One of the bills would have also required notification to those living in flood hazard zones and provided an offer for flood insurance. I invite the Legislature to continue to work with my Administration to further develop these proposals that will help provide the citizens of California the protection of life, property, and the environment that they expect and deserve.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger